

TRACKING A BILL THROUGH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

IN SENATE

IDEA

Conceived by Legislator, Legislative Committees, citizens, groups of citizens or copied from another state.

DRAFTING

Bills are drafted by Legislative Counsel and entered into legislative management system.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

Filed by a Senator with Secretary of the Senate who assigns it a number and prints.

On next legislative day, read first time and referred to Committee by President of the Senate. Bills are routinely assigned by subject matter; discretion lies with President Pro Tempore.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee considers and studies Bill, receives expert testimony and hears from all interested parties.

Committee alternatives are to: (1) Recommend Bill or Resolution Do Pass; (2) Recommend Do NOT Pass; (3) Recommend Do Pass with changes (amendments or substitutes); (4) Hold Bill.

Final Committee action reported to the Senate in a written report.

SECOND READING

Bill read second time on legislative day following Committee report.

THIRD READING AND PASSAGE

The following legislative day, third reading and debate; amendments and substitutes adopted; final vote taken by roll call and recorded on passage of all General Bills.

TRANSMITTAL TO HOUSE

Bill then Engrossed, signed by the Secretary of the Senate and transmitted to the House of Representatives.

IN HOUSE

FIRST READING

Bill read first time and referred to Committee by Speaker of the House.

SECOND READING

On next legislative day, read second time.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Committee considers and studies Bill, receives expert testimony and hears from all interested parties.

Committee alternatives are: (1) Recommend Bill or Resolution Do Pass;(2) Recommend Do NOT Pass; (3) Recommend Do Pass with changes (amendments or substitutes); (4) Report without recommendation; (5) Hold Bill.

Final Committee action reported to the House in a written report.

THIRD READING AND PASSAGE

The following legislative day, third reading and debate; amendments and substitutes adopted and final vote taken.

TRANSMITTAL BACK TO SENATE

Bill signed by the Clerk of the House of Representatives and transmitted back to the Senate.

If House makes changes, Senate must agree or disagree to changes. If the two Houses fail to reach agreement on a measure, a Conference Committee may be established with three members from each House appointed by the Presiding Officer. To complete passage, both Houses must agree to report of Conference Committee.

GOVERNOR'S SIGNATURE

Bill then Enrolled, signed by President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Speaker of the House and Clerk of the House and sent to Governor for his approval or disapproval. Governor signs or vetoes Bill within time limit; assigns Act number to Bill. Governor sends Bill which is now an Act (Law) to the Secretary of State for filing, printing and safekeeping.

VETO: The Governor may approve or veto a Bill within six days after receipt when the General Assembly is in session. After the Session is concluded, he has forty days to approve or veto the Bill. If he fails to take action within the prescribed time, the Bill becomes a Law. If he vetoes the Bill, the General Assembly may override the veto by a two-thirds vote of each House at the next Session.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS WHEN THE
SENATE IS IN SESSION**

1. Report of the Committee on the Journal.
2. Reading of the Journal.
3. Motions to Reconsider.
4. Confirmation of the Journal.
5. Introduction of Legislation.
6. First Reading and Reference of Senate Legislation.
7. First Reading and Reference of House Legislation, which shall also be in order at any later time when no other business is pending.
8. Reports of Standing Committees.
9. Second Reading of General Legislation.
10. Call of the Roll.
11. Pledge of Allegiance.
12. Prayer of the Chaplain.
13. Unanimous Consents
14. Points of Personal Privilege.
15. Adoption of Privileged Resolutions.
16. Motions to Withdraw Legislation from one committee and Commit to another committee.
17. Passage of Local Uncontested Legislation.
18. Consideration of Local Contested Legislation.
19. General Consent Calendar for Commemorative Resolutions.
20. Motions to Engross
21. Third Reading and Consideration of General Legislation.

Each Senator has a notebook on his desk which includes a Calendar of all legislation to be voted on that day with copies of each, along with all proposed amendments and substitutes. All legislation in the Senate is taken up and voted on in the order in which it appears on the Calendar. Speeches on legislation are made from the podium in the front of the Chamber (known as The Well). However, motions are made and questions asked from the Senators' desks.

Under the Constitution, the title of each General Bill or Resolution is read three times on three separate days, unless on the third reading the

Senate orders that it be read in its entirety.

The vote on all General legislation is taken electronically, displayed on a vote board and recorded in the Journal and available on the web. Twenty-nine votes are required to pass a Bill or Resolution and thirty-eight votes are required to adopt a Constitutional Amendment.

The following is a list of motions in order of precedence which are allowed during debate on Legislation:

Adjourn	Postpone to a Day Certain
Lay on Table	Commit
Previous Question	Amend
Adjourn to a Time Definite	Print
Indefinitely Postpone	

Senate Standing Committee meetings are scheduled weekly. (24 hours' notice required). All standing committee meetings are open to the public. (see link for weekly meetings)